

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A closed loop continuous emulsion polymerisation apparatus comprising a circulation pump having an inlet and an outlet, ~~a reactor tube which connects the outlet of the circulation pump to an inlet of the circulation pump~~, at least one monomer feed and at least one feed for water phase, a reactor tube connecting the outlet of the circulation pump with the inlet of the circulation pump and which receives the monomer feed and water phase feed and through which the circulation pump recirculates a polymer emulsion along the entire length of the reactor tube, an outlet for the discharge of a overflow of the polymer emulsion, a by-pass tube for by-passing a pig around the circulation pump and a pig receiving station which is in parallel connection with the circulation pump or the reactor tube.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pig receiving station is integrated into the by-pass tube for by-passing a pig around the circulation pump.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the circulation pump has a suction side and a delivery side and the reactor tube has an aperture through which the reactor tube is in fluid communication with the suction side of the circulation pump and continues on to the delivery side of the circulation pump, the part of the reactor tube between the suction and delivery sides of the circulation pump serving as the pig receiving station.
4. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the aperture is a slot extending substantially in the longitudinal direction of the tube.
5. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the width of the slot is smaller than the width of the pig.
6. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the width of the slot increases downstream.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reactor tube comprises a means for directing the pig into the pig receiving station.
8. **(Original)** The polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a substantial part of the reactor tube forms at least one helical coil.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The polymerization apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pig detector for checking whether the pig is present in the pig receiving station.
10. **(Withdrawn)** A process for preparing emulsion polymer by means of the polymerisation apparatus according to claim 1.
11. **(Withdrawn)** The process according to claim 9, wherein a pig is launched at intervals ranging from 1 to 60 minutes.
12. **(Withdrawn)** The process according to claim 9, wherein a pig is launched at intervals ranging from 10 to 20 minutes.
13. **(New)** A closed loop continuous emulsion polymerisation apparatus comprising
 - a circulation pump having an inlet and an outlet;
 - a reactor tube which connects the outlet of the circulation pump to the inlet of the circulation pump;
 - at least one monomer feed;
 - at least one feed for water phase;
 - an outlet for the discharge of a polymer emulsion;
 - a by-pass tube for by-passing a pig around the circulation pump; and
 - a pig receiving station which is in parallel connection with the circulation pump or the reactor tube and which is releasably engaged to the by-pass tube or the reactor tube such that the pig receiving station may be separated from the apparatus.
14. **(New)** A closed loop continuous emulsion polymerisation apparatus comprising

- a circulation pump having an outlet and an inlet;
- a reactor tube which connects the outlet of the circulation pump to the inlet of the circulation pump;
- at least one monomer feed;
- at least one feed for water phase;
- an outlet for the discharge of a polymer emulsion;
- a by-pass tube for by-passing a pig around the circulation pump;
- a pig receiving station which is in parallel connection with the circulation pump or the reactor tube and which comprises a means for removing the pig from or inserting the pig into the pig receiving station without disruption to the flow of the polymer emulsion.